

Stephen Crane Birthplace
14 Mulberry Place
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Stephen Crane Birthplace
14 Mulberry Place
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Owner: Stephen Crane Association

Date of Erection: Early 1860's

Architect:

Builder: Uncertain

Present Condition: Very poor

Number of Stories: Three

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone and
brick

Exterior walls - brick,
pressed brick on front,
common brick on sides
and rear

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - flat

Historical Data:

In our search of the records of this house
we find that from 1844-1854 there was apparently a

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house on this site occupied by Gamileo Sandford, a farmer. At this time the number was given as #14 Garden Street. The records for 1857 indicate that the number was a vacant lot assessed at one thousand dollars; the following year there was a house and lot assessed at thirteen hundred. However, the increased assessment of three hundred dollars would not cover the present building. The property in 1858 was in the possession of Mr. S. P. Smith of Newark. He sold to Anthony C. Beam, also of Newark in 1859. On April 23, 1868, we find that Frederick E. and Sarah E. Goodsell sold to Jonathan Townley Crane. Goodsell held a mortgage for \$4500 on the property. This would indicate that the house had been erected sometime between 1859 and 1868 and Anthony C. Beam seems to be the most likely one to have built it. The Reverend Crane held the property until March 31, 1874 when he sold to Charles Geiger and John W. Collins.

Jonathan Crane was born in what is now Union. He was a descendant of Stephen Crane who settled as early as 1665 at Elizabethtown. Jonathan was graduated in 1843 by Princeton. He came of Presbyterian stock, but was converted of Methodism at New Providence, New Jersey, at the age of eighteen. He married Mary Peck of Wilkes Barre who belonged to a family who had produced many Methodist clergymen.

Crane in 1848 was principal of the Conference Seminary at Pennington. From 1862-1864 he was at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church of Newark. He served as presiding elder of the Newark district from 1868-1872 and of the Elizabeth district from 1872-1876.

Stephen was born on November 1, 1871 at 14 Mulberry Place. He was the fourteenth child of the Reverend Jonathan Crane. Stephen spent only the first

three years of his life at 14 Mulberry Place. Stephen Crane's life is of interest, but it is not particularly concerned with this house. He is the author of one important novel which was written in 1893 - The Red Badge of Courage. Crane will be remembered for this, a few short stories and several poems. He died in 1900 at Badenweiler, Germany and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside in the plot of his father Jonathan Crane.

According to the latest news, the Crane house will be razed. The New York Herald Tribune and the Newark Evening News both declare that the house will be razed and a playground will be built on the site to be called the "Stephen Crane Memorial Playground and Skating Rink." It is to be constructed by the City of Newark as a W.P.A. project.

Bibliography:

Beer, Thomas Stephen Crane - A Study in American Letters New York, A. A. Knopf, 1926

Johnson, Allan) (Editors) Dictionary of Malone, Dumas) American Biography 20 Volumes New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1936
(See article on Jonathan Townley Crane by S. H. Cansner, and an article on Stephen Crane by Allen Westcott)

Search of City Hall records and Essex County records by Harry King and Frank Caufield

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Records of Fidelity Union Title
and Trust Company

An article in the Newark Evening News
for January 7, 1937 and also in the
New York Herald Tribune for same date

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.T.A.
District Officer

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